

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-11

COME-00 IO-13 NEA-10 TRSE-00 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 CU-04

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P R 081246Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8613

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, NATO, BE

SUBJECT: EC-POLITICAL DIRECTOR'S MEETING

1. SUMMARY: WHILE CAUTIOUS ABOUT REVEALING DETAILS OF COPENHAGEN MEETING SEPTEMBER 4-5, DAVIGNON'S REMARKS TO PRESS INDICATE CLEAR SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS AND OPTIMISM THAT MINISTERIAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 10-11 WILL CREATE BASIS FOR PRESIDENTIAL VISIT AND MARK END OF DISAGREEMENT IN EC ON HOW TO DEAL WITH US.

2. FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR DAVIGNON TOLD REPORTERS AT BACK-GROUNDER SEPT 7 (ON NON-ATTRIBUTABLE BASIS) THAT HE WAS CONVINCED THE MEETING OF THE EC POLITICAL COMMITTEE SEPT 10-11 WOULD BE A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUCCESS AND THAT A EUROPEAN ATTITUDE VIS-A-VIS THE UNITED

STATES WOULD EMERGE. HE ALSO SAID THAT EUROPE WOULD SPEAK THROUGH ONE SPOKESMAN IN DEALING WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE CAUTIONED HOWEVER THAT THE SO-CALLED EUROPEAN IDENTITY WHICH HOPEFULLY WOULD EMERGE FROM THE COPENHAGEN MEETING SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A FINITE THING; RATHER IT SHOULD BE VIEWED AS A PATTERN OR A PREVIEW OF WHAT EUROPE COULD ACHIEVE IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT IT LACKS APPROPRIATE POLITICAL STRUCTURES. EUROPEAN IDENTITY IS THUS NOT A STATIC CONCEPT BUT SOMETHING UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW BECOMING MORE SOPHISTICATED AS IT PROGRESSES.

3. DAVIGNON SAID THAT THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS WOULD PRESENT A SERIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS, OR WORKING HYPOTHESE ON US EUROPEAN RELATIONS BUT THAT THE MINISTERS WOULD DECIDE WHAT WAS ACCEPTED. WHILE THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE BOTH SUBSTANTIVE AND PRO-CEDURAL, SUBSTANTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS PREDOMINATE. AS TO THE FORM OF POSSIBLE EUROPEAN PROPOSALS CONCERNING MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT, DAVIGNON TOLD A QUESTIONER THAT IT WAS NOT REASONABLE FOR EUROPEANS TO SAY "HERE ARE OUR PROPOSALS" AND THEN LEAVE ONLY SPACE AT THE BOTTOM FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL SIGNATURE. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED NOTHING ON DEFENSE NOR UPON THE QUESTION OF A SUMMIT MEETING. THE COMMITTEE FAVORS SEPARATE PROPOSALS ON ECONOMICS FROM THE EC NINE AND ON DEFENSE FROM THE NATO FIFTEEN. HE SAID THERE WAS STILL SOME RETICENCE ABOUT A SUMMIT WHICH THE MINISTERS WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER AS WELL AS THE WORKING HYPOTHESE PRESENTED THEM. ALSO ON COPENHAGEN AGENDA WERE CSCE AND POSSIBLY THE RECENT SOVIET INITIATIVE ON COMECON-EC RELATIONS ALTHOUGH LATTER QUESTION WOULD BE DECIDED IN EC COUNCIL. WHETHER OR NOT THERE WOULD BE A FURTHER MEETING OF MINISTERS BEFORE A PRESENENTIAL VISIT WOULD DEPEND UPON THE OUTCOME OF THE SEPTEMBER 10-11 MEETING. HE THOUGHT HOWEVER THAT THE COPENHAGEN MEETING WOULD MARK THE END OF DISAGREEMENT AMONG THE NINE EC COUNTRIES ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THE UNITED STATES.

4. REFLECTING ON HIS INABILITY TO TREAT WITH THE PRESS WITH HIS USUAL CANDOR, DAVIGNON EXPLAINED THAT THE SEPTEMBER 4-5 MEETING WAS QUITE THE OPPOSITE OF THOSE IN JUNE AND JULY. THEN, HE HAD NOTHING TO TELL REPORTERS; NOW, ALTHOUGH RESULTS AT COPENHAGEN WERE VERY SIGNIFICANT, THE SITUATION WAS EXTREMELY DELICATE AND HE COULD SAY VERY LITTLE. EXCEPT TO NOTE THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THINGS HAD CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE JULY, HE FELT IT NECESSARY TO BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL IN ANY PUBLIC DISCUSSION PRIOR TO THE MINISTERS' MEETING MONDAY. IT WOULD BE INDISCREET IF NOT BOEASTFUL ("PUTTING FEATHERS IN ONE'S OWN TAIL") TO SAY MORE. HE ADDED NEVERTHELESS, WITH CLEAR REFERENCE TO FRANCE, THAT PARTICIPANTS IN THE COPENHAGEN MEETING HAD FOUND THAT IT SIMPLY WAS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE TO DO UNREASONABLE THINGS. BOOCHEVER

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